



# Press Release

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## **CALIFORNIA SCHOOLS TO LEAD NATION IN EDUCATING CHILDREN ABOUT ENVIRONMENT**

**SACRAMENTO, CA – (October 7, 2005)** -- With the passage of AB 1721, California is poised to lead the nation in environmental education. AB 1721, supported and signed by Governor Schwarzenegger, allocates state funds of \$7 million dollars over two years for environmental education curricula development under the Education and the Environment Initiative (AB 1548 Pavley – Chapter 665, Statutes of 2003).

The Education and Environment Initiative (EEI), a landmark environmental education law, involves a comprehensive state program that provides environmental principles, concepts, and standards-based curricula in all disciplines (science, history/social sciences, English/language arts, and mathematics) for all K-12 grade students in state public schools. "This program supports the Governor's efforts to improve California's environment," said Alan C. Lloyd, Ph.D., Secretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency. "For the first time, California's children will learn about the environment in the classroom in a comprehensive, sequential way, from kindergarten through high school."

"With the new curriculum, teachers will have the opportunity to teach students about the environment, and at the same time, reinforce the state's academic content standards," said Rosario Marin, chair of the California Integrated Waste Management Board. The board leads the state's environmental education effort with the California Environmental Protection Agency.

"Kids are natural friends of the environment and they enjoy learning about the world around them. They also have the most to lose when the air and water quality is poor. The new environmental education curricula will teach children to live and work in ways that are beneficial to their own health and the health of the planet," said Assemblywoman Fran Pavley, author of the legislation that created the EEI.

California school teachers will begin field testing the new model curriculum by 2007, and it will ultimately be presented to the State Board of Education for approval. Thereafter, implementation of the EEI will be supported by the state, and by the wide-ranging EEI partnership of private foundations, academic institutions, educational groups, industry associations, and nonprofit organizations.

For more information, please visit: [www.calepa.ca.gov/Education/EEI](http://www.calepa.ca.gov/Education/EEI) or contact Andrea Lewis, Assistant Secretary, CalEPA at [alewis@calepa.ca.gov](mailto:alewis@calepa.ca.gov).

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